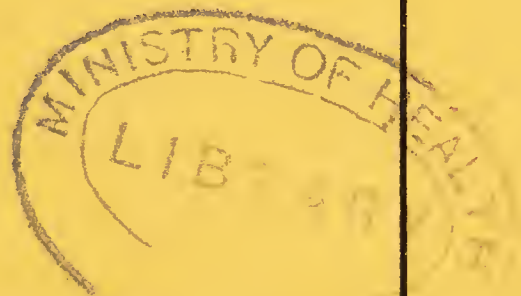


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Borough of Rawtenstall



ANNUAL REPORT

for 1953

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector



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Borough of Rawtenstall



ANNUAL REPORT

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OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector

BOROUGH OF RAWTENSTALL

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

C. H. T. WADE, M.D., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

C. CUNLIFFE, A.R.S.I.

Senior Additional Sanitary Inspector:

L. T. SIMPSON, A.R.S.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

J. HOLT, M.S.I.A.

Clerks:

A. HALLIWELL, MISS W. ORTON.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

THE MAYOR (ALD. H. TURNER)

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR F. PLATT

ALDERMAN E. INGHAM

„ J. STANSFIELD

COUNCILLOR E. W. DUDDINGTON

„ H. HALLIWELL

„ W. HEBDEN

„ A. INGHAM

„ F. LORD

„ F. M. PROCTER

„ W. H. SHARP

„ G. TOMLINSON

„ H. WORSWICK

JUNE, 1954.

To the Mayor and Members of the Rawtenstall Borough Council.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1953 on the health and sanitary conditions of the district.

In general it may be said that the health of the district has been satisfactorily maintained and no serious outbreaks of illness have occurred. The smallpox epidemic in the West Riding resulted in a small number of contacts being found in the borough. These were carefully supervised and vaccinated and fortunately no cases of the actual disease developed. For the seventh year in succession no cases of diphtheria occurred.

Sub-standard houses, tuberculous infection and smoke pollution are the main items which require to be given detailed attention in the immediate future.

Other aspects of the Public Health Service have responded well to the attention which has been given to them with continued benefit to the health of the district.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the members of the Council for the interest taken in the work of the department and to members of the staff who have carried out their duties in an able and conscientious manner.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. H. T. WADE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
Spring Garden Chambers,
8, Kay Street,
RAWTENSTALL.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions

General Summary.

The Registrar General again estimated a slight decrease in the population and gave an estimated figure of 24,950. The *adjusted birth rate was 14.1 and the adjusted death rate 21.7 per thousand of the population. The birth rate was a little below the rate for England and Wales which was 15.5 per thousand. The death rate of 21.7 is an abnormal figure this year because it includes all the deaths in the Rossendale General Hospital. This anomalous position has been pointed out to the Registrar General and in subsequent years the hospital deaths will be excluded. After making allowance for the hospital deaths, the death rate for the district becomes 16.74 compared with the national rate of 11.4 per thousand.

The infant mortality rate, which is regarded as a good index of social conditions, was 23.0 per thousand live births. This is a record low figure and is better than the national rate of 26.8 which is itself a record. Reference to the column of figures on page 10 will show how much the infant mortality rate has fallen; around the 1930's, for example, a rate of 60 or 70 was common and this means that three-times the number of infants died at that time than die today. There was one maternal death during 1953.

There were six deaths from cancer of the lungs, five of them in males.

An outbreak of measles constituted the main incidence of infectious disease. The smallpox outbreak in Yorkshire involved the careful supervision of nine contacts, none of whom developed the disease. There was one case of food poisoning associated with the outbreak in another area and five cases within the borough, the cause of which was not ascertained. There were no deaths. As previously mentioned, for the seventh year in succession no diphtheria occurred. Six persons died from pulmonary tuberculosis; four of these deaths occurred in the hospital and the patients were not residents of the district. There were 19 new cases of the disease and 10 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. These are figures which could and should be reduced.

Two samples of milk were found to contain tubercle bacilli and immediate action was taken to find the source. Twenty-six

out of 101 samples did not pass the recognised bacteriological standard, these were all samples of raw milk. All samples of heat treated, pasteurised and sterilised milk were satisfactory and free from tuberculosis.

One hundred and fifty-four new houses and ten flats were completed by the Borough Council and five houses were completed by private builders. Closing orders were issued in respect of 17 houses and demolition orders in respect of three houses. Ten unfit houses were demolished under demolition orders.

The public mains water supply was satisfactory in quality and quantity. Some private supplies were found to contain lead and the tenants were advised to run standing water to waste.

* Adjusted means corrected to a standard population for the purpose of comparison with other districts.

STATISTICS.

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Area in Acres | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9,528 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses—according to the Rate Books | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9,411 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses—Census 1931 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8,079 |
| Rateable Value | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £158,069 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £618 |
| Population—Registrar General's Estimate (Mid-year, 1953) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24,950 |
| Population—Census 1931 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 28,575 |
| Population—Census 1951 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25,426 |

BIRTHS.

| | | Male. | Female. | Total |
|--------------|--------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Live Births | Legitimate | 169 | 170 | 339 |
| | Illegitimate | 5 | 8 | 13 |
| | Total | 174 | 178 | 352 |
| Still Births | Legitimate | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| | Illegitimate | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | Total | 3 | 6 | 9 |

DEATHS.

| | | Male. | Female. | Total | |
|--|---|------------------------|---------|-------|---|
| Infantile. | { | Legitimate | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| | | Illegitimate | — | — | — |
| | | Total | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| Maternal | { | Puerperal Sepsis | — | — | — |
| | | Other Maternal Causes | — | 1 | 1 |
| | | Total | — | 1 | 1 |
| Neo-natal Mortality — infants under 4 weeks of age | | 1 | 6 | 7 | |
| Total Number of Deaths from All Causes | | 322 | 220 | 542 | |

| | |
|---|-------|
| Live Birth Rate, per 1,000 Population | 14.10 |
| Adjusted Birth Rate, per 1,000 Population | 14.40 |
| Still Birth Rate, per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.. | 25.00 |
| Infantile Mortality Rate, per 1,000 Live Births | 23.00 |
| Maternal Mortality Rate, per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births | 2.77 |
| Neo-natal Mortality Rate, per 1,000 Live Births | 20.00 |
| Death Rate, per 1,000 Population | 21.70 |
| Adjusted Death Rate, per 1,000 Population | 20.00 |
| Death Rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System | 0.24 |
| Death Rate from Cancer | 3.45 |

ENGLAND AND WALES.

| | |
|--|-------|
| Live Birth Rate, per 1,000 Population | 15.50 |
| Death Rate, per 1,000 Population | 11.40 |
| Infantile Mortality Rate, per 1,000 Live Births | 26.80 |

| CAUSE OF DEATH. | | | | | | M. | F. | Total |
|-----------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 1. | Tuberculosis, respiratory | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| 2. | Tuberculosis, other | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3. | Syphilitic disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4. | Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5. | Whooping cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6. | Meningococcal infections | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7. | Acute poliomyelitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8. | Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9. | Other infective and parasitic diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10. | Malignant neoplasm, stomach | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 | 5 | 16 |
| 11. | Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| 12. | Malignant neoplasm, breast | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| 13. | Malignant neoplasm, uterus | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 14. | Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | ... | ... | ... | ... | 35 | 17 | 52 |
| 15. | Leukaemia, aleukaemia | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 16. | Diabetes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 17. | Vascular lesions of nervous system | ... | ... | ... | ... | 41 | 39 | 80 |
| 18. | Coronary disease, angina | ... | ... | ... | ... | 41 | 16 | 57 |
| 19. | Hypertension with heart disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| 20. | Other heart disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | 87 | 70 | 157 |
| 21. | Other circulatory disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 | 9 | 24 |
| 22. | Influenza | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 23. | Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 24. | Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 | 5 | 30 |
| 25. | Other diseases of respiratory system | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| 26. | Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 27. | Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 28. | Nephritis and nephrosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| 29. | Hyperplasia of prostate | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| 30. | Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 31. | Congenital malformations | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 32. | Other defined and ill-defined diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 | 20 | 34 |
| 33. | Motor vehicle accidents | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 34. | All other accidents | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | 5 | 12 |
| 35. | Suicide | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 36. | Homicide and operations of war | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTALS ... | | | | | | 322 | 220 | 542 |

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Under the National Health Service Act the County Council is responsible for the local health services.

The examination of pathological specimens and milk and water samples is undertaken without charge by the Public Health Laboratory at Monsall Hospital, Manchester.

The following matters are the responsibility of the Borough Council:—The control of infectious disease; provision of suitable water supplies; control of cleansing and disposal of refuse; inspection of all food and food preparing premises; sampling of food stuffs (milk, ice-cream, etc.) for bacteriological examination; sanitary accommodation to houses, factories, shops and other premises; inspection of houses with regard to fitness for human habitation; nuisances and defects; rodent control; offensive trades; smoke abatement, and many other matters concerned with environmental health.

Hospital facilities are now under the Regional Board and Management Committees and patients are admitted without regard to local boundaries.

Ambulance, District Nursing, Midwifery and Maternity and Child Welfare Services are provided by the County Council and administered under the Divisional Health Service Scheme.

SECTION C.

Prevalence of and Control over
Infectious and other Diseases

Infectious Disease.

Measles continued to be present throughout the year and constituted the main incidence of infectious disease. Whooping cough was also present but to a much less extent. There were no other diseases of any amount.

Details of diphtheria immunisations during 1953 are shown in the following tables.

The number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation against diphtheria during 1953 is shown by the following table:—

| AGE AT DATE OF FINAL INJECTION | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|----|----|----|---------------------|----|-----|-----------------|----------------------|
| 0— | 1— | 2— | 3— | 4— | Total under 5 years | 5— | 10— | Total 5—14 inc. | Total aged 15 & over |
| 207 | 44 | 8 | — | 5 | 264 | 32 | 3 | 35 | — |

The number of children who were given a reinforcement injection during 1953, i.e. subsequent to complete course, is as follows:—

| AGE GROUP | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-------------|------------------|------------------------|
| 0— | 5— | 10—14 incl. | Total 0—14 incl. | Total aged 15 and over |
| 22 | 170 | 54 | 246 | 1 |

The number of children under 15 years of age who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31/12/53 is as follows:—

| Age at 31.12.53 i.e. born in year | Under 1 1953 | 1—4 1952-1949 | 5—9 1948-1944 | 10—14 1943-1939 | Total under 15 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| No. Immunised | 34 | 1242 | 1389 | 1301 | 3966 |

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED DURING EACH YEAR FROM 1944 to 1953.

| DISEASE. | 1944 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 |
|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Smallpox | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Scarlet Fever | 61 | 42 | 20 | 28 | 7 | 14 | 38 | 7 | 19 | 7 |
| Diphtheria | 27 | 42 | 30 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Enteric Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Acute Primary Pneumonia | 44 | 41 | 41 | 48 | 32 | 30 | 42 | 50 | 31 | 28 |
| Acute Influenzal Pneumonia | | | | | | | | | | |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 2 | 2 | 6 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever | 1 | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... |
| Acute Polio-encephalitis | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Dysentery | 3 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 | 10 | 7 | ... |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 7 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Erysipelas | 7 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Measles | 91 | 146 | 95 | 97 | 305 | 20 | 479 | 111 | 223 | 254 |
| Whooping Cough | 53 | 15 | 36 | 38 | 105 | 16 | 123 | 66 | 104 | 72 |
| Malaria—Contracted Abroad... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Meningococcal Infection | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Food Poisoning | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | 4 | 6 |
| TOTALS | 296 | 306 | 241 | 229 | 464 | 90 | 711 | 255 | 392 | 372 |

NUMBER OF DIPHTHERIA CASES AND DEATHS, 1937-53.

| | No. of cases. No. of deaths. | |
|------------|------------------------------|---|
| 1937 | 30 | 3 |
| 1938 | 19 | — |
| 1939 | 14 | — |
| 1940 | 54 | 4 |
| 1941 | 12 | — |
| 1942 | 13 | — |
| 1943 | 25 | — |
| 1944 | 27 | — |
| 1945 | 42 | 1 |
| 1946 | 30 | — |
| 1947 | nil | — |
| 1948 | nil | — |
| 1949 | nil | — |
| 1950 | nil | — |
| 1951 | nil | — |
| 1952 | nil | — |
| 1953 | nil | — |

BACTERIOLOGICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The following table shows the results of bacteriological and pathological examinations during the year.

| Particulars of Examination. | Positive | Negative | Total |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|-------|
| Throat Swabs | | | |
| C. Diphtheriae | — | 2 | 2 |
| Vincent's Organisms | — | 2 | 2 |
| Haemolytic Streptococci .. | — | 2 | 2 |
| Nose Swabs | | | |
| C. Diphtheriae | — | 2 | 2 |
| Haemolytic Streptococci .. | 2 | — | 2 |
| Faeces Specimens | | | |
| Dysentery | — | 4 | 4 |
| Typhoid | — | 4 | 4 |
| Salmonella | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Urine | | | |
| Albumin | — | 1 | 1 |
| Deposits | 1 | — | 1 |
| Culture | 1 | — | 1 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| | 5 | 21 | 26 |
| <hr/> | | | |

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 19 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified and 10 new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. Enquiries are made in every case about the source of infection and family and other close contacts of the patient are examined.

At the time of writing this report a new chest clinic has been opened at the Rossendale General Hospital and the chest clinic at Stacksteads closed.

During the year 157 cases were visited, the number of visits paid being 524. Where desirable, Sanatorium or Hospital treatment is arranged for after consultation between the Tuberculosis Officer and the Medical Practitioner concerned.

At the beginning of the year there were 161 cases of tuberculosis on the register. Twenty-nine cases were added and 8 cases taken off the register, leaving a total of 182 cases on the register at the end of the year. The following table gives an analysis of the cases on the register during the year.

PARTICULARS OF CASES ON REGISTER DURING 1953.

| | PULMONARY | | | NON-PULMONARY | | | TOTAL PULMONARY AND NON-PULMONARY | | |
|---|-----------|-----|-------|---------------|-----|-------|---|-----|-------|
| | M. | F. | Total | M. | F. | Total | M. | F. | Total |
| No. of cases on register at beginning of year | 57 | 51 | 108 | 20 | 33 | 53 | 77 | 84 | 161 |
| No. of cases added to register during year .. | 13 | 6 | 19 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 18 | 11 | 29 |
| No. of cases removed from register during year:— | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) Died | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 |
| (b) Left the district ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| (c) Recovered | 2 | ... | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| (d) Diagnosis not confirmed | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| No. of cases remaining on register at end of year:— | 66 | 57 | 123 | 23 | 36 | 59 | 89 | 93 | 182 |

The following table gives the age groups of new cases taken on the register and deaths of cases removed from the register during 1953.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1953.

| | NEW CASES | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|---------|-----------|-------|---------------|-------|-----------|-------|---------------|-------|
| | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | |
| | Males | Fem's | Males | Fem's | Males | Fem's | Males | Fem's |
| 0- 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 1- 5 | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 5-10 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 10-15 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 15-20 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 20-25 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 25-35 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 35-45 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 45-55 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 55-65 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Over 65 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| | 13 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 2 | ... | ... | ... |
| | 19 | | 10 | | 2 | | ... | |

SECTION D.

Sanitary Circumstances

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit, in association with the Medical Officer of Health, my seventh annual report on the work carried out in the Borough to improve environmental conditions affecting the health of its citizens. As in former years this introductory letter briefly scans the more important features of the year's work, the details of which are to be found in the text of the report. In choosing certain items for special mention the importance of routine work, the value of which is rarely reflected in cold statistical tables, should not be forgotten, for example, the weekly refuse collection service, the service provided for the prompt release of blocked drains and W.Cs. and the routine dealing with nuisances and the inspection of various types of premises.

The schemes to provide public water supply to areas served by unsatisfactory private water supplies proceeded satisfactorily. Implementation of the Council's policy on this matter commenced just over two years ago and 499 houses have been converted to the public water supply in this period whilst a further 28 houses, which have been closed or demolished, were formerly served by unsatisfactory private supplies. These figures represent over 27% of the houses originally considered as likely to be affected in the schemes. Further schemes were in hand at the end of the year and so far 37% of affected houses are in schemes approved by the Council. The major scheme put in hand, and which was almost completed at the time of writing this report, was the provision of public water supply to the Goodshaw Chapel district, an area which for some time now has experienced frequent shortages of water.

Considerable work has been done during recent years with a view to presenting a picture of the standard of housing accommodation in the Borough. During the year considerable encouragement was given to the Department by the Council's decision to accept, in principle, the 20 year plan for dealing with unsatisfactory houses, which was submitted as a progressive programme to deal with the bad conditions found in the housing survey. Apart from acceptance of the broad principles of the plan, detailed consideration was given and approval made, of the houses to be dealt with in clearance areas during the first five years. This placed the Council in a satisfactory position with regard to supplying information to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government as visualised in the proposed new housing legislation. The grading of sub-standard property in five year periods of action also provided useful information to owners, would-be purchasers, and

others interested in the life expectancy of property and many enquiries were made regarding this. Although a planned programme exists, and probably at least ten years will elapse before the major clearance schemes can be dealt with, many problems still remain to be resolved with regard to the action to be taken with the numerous back-to-back houses of sound construction and reasonable repair. In the absence of owners submitting approved schemes of conversions and reconditioning it may well be that the Council should consider acquiring certain of this type of property where satisfactory housing accommodation can be provided. The conversion of sound back-to-back property would be encouraged by such schemes being regarded as eligible for improvement grants. At the end of the year many of the problems peculiar to this area, with its 2,000 back-to-back houses, were receiving special consideration and several points were being raised with the Ministry.

In conclusion, I should like to place on record the excellent co-operation and assistance I have received from the staff and colleague officials, including those of the Irwell Valley Water Board and also express my appreciation of the encouragement afforded me by the Committee and Council in the execution of my duties.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C. CUNLIFFE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Circumstances.

WATER SUPPLY.

With the exception of 76 houses in the Cowpe district, which are supplied from mains provided and maintained by the Bacup Corporation, the public water supply to 7606 houses in the Borough is furnished by the Irwell Valley Water Board. The remaining 1,562 houses are supplied from private sources, the water being piped into the houses in all but 17 instances.

(1) PUBLIC SUPPLY.

Upland surface reservoirs at Clowbridge, Greenfold and Clough Bottom provide the sources for the main public supply. The whole supply is chlorinated, and part of the supply is filtered through closed pressure filters. Owing to certain waters being derived from peaty moorlands there is a liability to plumbo-solvency and the water is lime treated to overcome this. Ninety-two examinations for plumbo-solvency were made and found to be mainly satisfactory. The Water Board also reports that satisfactory results were obtained from 92 bacteriological and 20 chemical examinations carried out during the year. The Department also collected six samples for bacteriological examination, five of which proved satisfactory and one unsatisfactory. Extensions of distribution mains were made to areas served by unsatisfactory private water supplies and also to new housing sites. In the former connection, special "booster" plant was installed to serve the Goodshaw Chapel area which is above the ordnance level for gravitational feed.

(2) PRIVATE SUPPLIES.

Progress has continued satisfactorily in dealing with unsatisfactory private water supplies. The following statistical review sets out the essential details of the action taken this year and since the conversion schemes were commenced in 1951.

PROGRESS BY HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

| | No. of Notices. | | |
|---|-----------------|------|--------|
| | 1951/2 | 1953 | Totals |
| Informal Notices served on owners | 515 | 278 | 793 |
| Reminder Notices served on owners | 635 | 10 | 645 |
| Formal Notices served on owners | 67 | 10 | 77 |

| | No. of Houses. | | |
|---|----------------|------|--------|
| | 1951/2 | 1953 | Totals |
| Schemes prepared and forwarded to Water Undertakers | 1535 | — | 1535 |
| Schemes approved by Council | 596 | 110 | 706 |
| Houses dealt with under Housing Acts (closure or demolition) | 15 | 13 | 28 |

PROGRESS BY WATER UNDERTAKERS.

| | 1951/2 | 1953 | Totals |
|----------------------|--------|------|--------|
| New mains laid | 444 | 101 | 545 |

PROGRESS BY OWNERS.

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| Agreements received from owners to connect to new mains | 481 | 34 | 515 |
| Connected to new mains | 274 | 208 | 499 |
| Connected by local authority in default | 5 | 12 | |

CONTROL MEASURES.—SAMPLING.

| | Bacterio- logical. | | Chemical (Organic Content). | | Chemical (Presence of Lead). | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------|-----------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|------|
| | 1951/2 | 1953 | 1951/2 | 1953 | 1951/2 | 1953 |
| No. of samples collected .. | 583 | 45 | 83 | 3 | 122 | — |
| No. reported satisfactory. | 256 | 12 | 69 | 1 | 83 | — |
| No. reported suspicious .. | 68 | 6 | 11 | — | — | — |
| No. reported unsatisfact'y | 259 | 27 | 3 | 2 | 39 | — |

CONTROL MEASURES.—WARNING LETTERS TO CONSUMERS.

| | No. of Houses. | | |
|--|----------------|------|--------|
| | 1951/2 | 1953 | Totals |
| Advice to boil and to run standing water to waste | 286 | 9 | 295 |
| Advice to boil only | 487 | 138 | 625 |
| Advice to run standing water to waste only | 25 | — | 25 |

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewage disposal works is situated in Haslingden and is under the control of the Bacup, Rawtenstall and Haslingden Outfall Sewerage Board. The method of treatment is by precipitation and filtration with outfall into the River Irwell.

The sewerage scheme is on the separate system but the presence of old uncharted goits and water courses gives rise to many problems. During the year the Borough Engineer continued a detailed survey of the sewers and watercourses.

The main extension to the sewerage system during the year was in connection with new housing developments. There were 1030 inspections in relation to drainage defects, and 628 complaints of blocked drains, etc., were dealt with by the Department during the year. There are a number of farms and cottages not connected to the sewers by reason of their isolation.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Rivers Irwell, Limy Water and Whitewell Brook are polluted by industrial premises in the area and improvement in this matter is one of the chief sanitary requirements in this district.

The responsible authority for dealing with pollution is the Mersey River Board, with whom contact was made on a number of occasions during the year regarding abnormal pollutions. The area of the Board is based on the natural drainage areas of rivers and streams which ultimately feed the River Mersey.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

| | |
|---|-------|
| No. of privy middens | 7 |
| No. of closets attached to these middens | 7 |
| No. of pail closets | 318 |
| No. of dry ashpits (exclusive of middens) | 16 |
| No. of waste water closets | 3,198 |
| No. of fresh water closets | 5,155 |
| No. of portable receptacles for refuse | 9,702 |

SANITARY CONVERSIONS.

The abolition of obsolete types of sanitary accommodation is one of the principal sanitary requirements of the district. Since May, 1952, the Council has contributed £10 towards the cost of waste water closets converted to the fresh water flushed system, provided the work is carried out in accordance with the Department's requirements. The rate of converting pail closets has also increased since May, 1952, following the Council's decision to pay one half the cost of the plumbing and drainage work based on the lowest of at least two tenders. There are comparatively few pail closets remaining within reasonable distance of a sewer. A programme of sewer extensions is being carried out although the vast majority of the remaining pail closets are in remote parts of the town. The conversions are financed from loans obtained by sanction of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

| | Converted from Pails. | W.W. Cs. | F.W.Cs. provided | | Grants app'ed for payment. | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------|------|----------------------------------|----|---|
| | | | Int. | Ext. | | | |
| Applications | 12 | | 5 | 10 | | | |
| approved | | 110 | 28 | 89 | | | |
| Conversions | 7 | | 8 | 1 | | | |
| completed | | 91 | 20 | 74 | | | |
| Grants | 15 | | 12 | 5 | £484 | 18 | 1 |
| approved | | 105 | 24 | 84 | £1050 | 0 | 0 |
| In association with private | 4 | | 2 | 3 | | | |
| water supply conversions | | 7 | 2 | 7 | | | |

Since the scheme was instituted in May, 1952, applications have been approved for the conversion of 33 pail closets and 262 waste water closets. Grants approved total £517 3s. 0d. in respect of pails and £2,040 0s. 0d. in respect of waste water closets.

Sanitary Inspections during 1953.

| SANITARY ADMINISTRATION. | Primary Visits. | Re- visits. | Totals. |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------|
| Cleansing and Salvage | 287 | 2 | 289 |
| Disinfection | 66 | 25 | 91 |
| Drainage and Sewerage | 718 | 312 | 1030 |
| Factories with Mechanical Power | 14 | 19 | 33 |
| Factories (others) | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Infectious Diseases | 87 | 176 | 263 |
| Keeping of Animals | 10 | 6 | 16 |
| Nuisances (Miscellaneous) | 63 | 83 | 146 |
| Public Conveniences | 311 | 4 | 315 |
| Rag Flock Premises | 3 | — | 3 |
| Refuse Accommodation | 569 | 115 | 684 |
| River Pollution | 3 | — | 3 |
| Rodent Control | 29 | 22 | 51 |
| Sanitary Accommodation | 212 | 15 | 227 |
| Schools | 12 | 2 | 14 |
| Shops Act | 4 | 17 | 21 |
| Smoke Abatement | 13 | 3 | 16 |
| Smoke Observations | 17 | — | 17 |
| Verminous Premises | 33 | 12 | 45 |
| Water Sampling | 80 | — | 80 |
| Water Supplies (private) | 107 | 6 | 113 |

| HOUSING ADMINISTRATION. | Primary Visits. | Re- visits. | Totals. |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------|
| Dwelling house Repairs—H.A. | 22 | 28 | 50 |
| Dwelling house Repairs—P.H.A. | 94 | 143 | 237 |
| Enquiries (Miscellaneous) | 50 | 7 | 57 |
| Overcrowding | 11 | — | 11 |
| Survey | 379 | 1 | 380 |

FOOD ADMINISTRATION.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Disease of Animals Acts | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Food Inspection | 100 | — | 100 |
| Food Poisoning | 12 | 14 | 26 |
| Food Premises—Bakehouses | 6 | — | 6 |
| Butchers | 26 | 24 | 50 |
| Canteens | 9 | — | 9 |
| Catering Estabs. | 10 | 17 | 27 |
| Confectioners | 16 | 1 | 17 |
| Food Preparing | 21 | 21 | 42 |
| Fried Fish Shops | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Greengrocers | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| Grocers | 42 | 6 | 48 |
| Ice Cream Man'f'rs ... | 11 | 5 | 16 |
| Ice Cream Retailers ... | 34 | 12 | 46 |
| Licensed Premises | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| Ice Cream Sampling—Bacteriological .. | 41 | — | 41 |
| Milk Sampling—Bacteriological | 118 | — | 118 |
| T.B. Exam. | 78 | 3 | 81 |
| TOTALS | 3734 | 1115 | 4849 |

WORK ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE YEAR.

The following list of housing defects and nuisances were discovered, remedied, and dealt with by the service of notice:—

DWELLING HOUSE REPAIRS AND NUISANCES RECORDED IN JOURNAL (P.H.A.).

| | Found. | Abated. |
|------------------------|--------|---------|
| Roofs | 13 | 16 |
| Chimney stacks | 3 | 2 |
| Chimney flues | 3 | 3 |
| Eavesgutters | 8 | 13 |
| Rain Water Pipes | 8 | 8 |
| Walls structure | 2 | — |
| Wall pointings | 11 | 13 |

| | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| Yard surfacings | 1 | 1 |
| Outbuildings | 10 | 10 |
| Pails defective | 2 | 2 |
| Waste water closets defective | 55 | 49 |
| Waste water closets converted | — | 6 |
| Fresh water closets defective | 6 | 4 |
| Drains | 63 | 52 |
| Dustbins defective | 57 | 62 |
| Dustbins insufficient | 6 | 6 |
| Ceilings, Ceiling Plaster | 10 | 6 |
| Wall plaster | 3 | 5 |
| Windows | 8 | 9 |
| Doors, Door woodwork | — | 1 |
| Floors | 7 | 8 |
| Fireplaces | 2 | 7 |
| Sinks | — | 1 |
| Water Supply fittings | 3 | 3 |
| Offensive Accumulations | 5 | 2 |
| Unsatisfactory Private Water Supply ... | 110 | 220 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Defects | 396 | 509 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

In addition to the above, 628 complaints relating to blocked drains, etc., were dealt with. During the year 524 dustbins were supplied by this Department.

NOTICES SERVED.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Informal | 506 |
| Statutory | 11 |
| Work carried out in default | 12 |

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Sixteen smoke observations of industrial chimneys in the area were made during the year and generally this aspect of the work received increased attention but much more work requires to be done in this connection.

RESULTS OF SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

| | |
|--|-------|
| Less than 3 minutes black smoke emitted per half hour (Bye-law standard) | 10 |
| More than 3 minutes black smoke emitted per half hour | 6 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 16 |
| | <hr/> |

Satisfactory solutions of the various problems call for co-operative action with the various bodies and, generally speaking, industrialists in the area co-operate readily when their attention is drawn to unsatisfactory conditions. There is still however too great a tendency to blame inferior or unsuitable fuels, which undoubtedly increase the difficulties of suppressing nuisances, but at the same time it becomes increasingly important to utilise more efficient plants and fuelling procedures. The general public themselves do not realise the serious amount of pollution emanating from their own domestic fireplaces. During recent years a considerable number of older houses and Council houses have been fitted with approved smokeless fuel grates yet only a small percentage of people use them correctly and continue to burn smoky bituminous coal when smokeless fuels are available. Considerable education seems necessary in this connection.

DISINFESTATION.

Advice and assistance is given to all occupiers of infested premises who seek our help. Treatment for householders is free if their co-operation can be secured, and the methods vary according to circumstances. The substances used are 5% D.D.T. powders with pyrethrum, 5% liquid D.D.T. in kerosene, and Fumite D.D.T./Lindane smoke generators.

Treatment by the Department's staff has been undertaken in the following cases :—

| | | No. of Rooms. | No. of Premises. |
|-------------------|-----------|------------------|---------------------|
| Cockroaches | Domestic | 35 | 27 |
| | Schools | 9 | 3 |
| | Factories | 7 | 2 |
| Silver Fish | Domestic | 2 | 2 |
| Fleas | Domestic | 45 | 13 |

DISINFECTION.

Visits were made during the year in connection with the investigation of cases of infectious disease and the disinfection of rooms and articles. The following treatments were given in 1953 :

| | Disinfected. | | Destroyed. | |
|----------------------|--------------|--------|------------|--------|
| | T.B. | Others | T.B. | Others |
| Rooms | 32 | 5 | — | — |
| Beds | 12 | — | 1 | 25 |
| Other Articles | 102 | — | — | 77 |

SCHOOLS.

There are 22 schools in the Borough and the following table sets out the general standard of sanitary arrangements. The Regulations referred to are based on the School Premises Amending Regulations.

| | |
|---|----|
| Yard Surfaces unsatisfactory | 12 |
| Sanitary Accommodation :— | |
| Fresh Water closets only | 19 |
| Trough closets only | 3 |
| Deficiencies by standards prescribed by Regulations | 12 |
| Refuse Disposal by dustbins | 22 |
| Water Supply :— | |
| Public Mains | 21 |
| Private Supplies | 1 |
| Washing facilities unsatisfactory according to standards prescribed by Regulations | 17 |
| Drinking facilities unsatisfactory | 20 |

The facilities for handling school meals were mainly satisfactory and a high standard of cleanliness was observed. A central meal kitchen supplies the majority of schools, the meals being carried in insulated containers.

It is pleasing to note the progress that is being made in the improvement of the sanitary accommodation at the schools. In addition to the conversion of the insanitary trough closets, the Divisional Education Committee, in response to recommendations from the Department, are substituting separately flushed fresh water closets for those flushed by automatic flushing tanks.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There is one tripe dressing premise in the Borough which receives periodic inspection.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

Control of moveable dwellings is effected by Section 140 of the Rawtenstall Corporation Act, 1907. No applications were made during the year.

RAG FLOCK.

The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951, came into operation on the 1st November, 1951, and the Act repeals the

Rag Flock Acts of 1911 and 1928. There are no licensed premises within the Borough but three premises are registered as users of filling materials, and three visits were made to them.

RODENT CONTROL.

Work under this important aspect of environmental health was intensified during the year by the institution of a comprehensive treatment of the nine miles of river bank in the area which has long been known to be the haunt of an appreciable rat population. Abutting considerable lengths of the bank are industrial and domestic premises and all the occupiers of business premises on the bank agreed to co-operate in the scheme and meet the cost involved in treating their particular section. The treatment proved so successful that the Council have determined that a yearly treatment should be given. This involves the employment of two men for approximately three months on this work.

In addition to the above measures infested sewers are treated twice yearly as well as the treatment of all other premises found to be, or notified as being, infested with rats or mice. A free service is given to tenants of domestic premises but a charge is made for the treatment of business premises. Wherever sites are suitable Warfarin baits are used and this comparatively new poison continued to give highly satisfactory results .

The following summary sets out the work carried out in the Borough during the year.

| | TYPE OF PROPERTY | | | | Total |
|---|------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|-------|
| | Local Authority | Dwelling houses | Agricul- tural | All Others | |
| Total number of proper- ties in District | 12 | 9081 | 220 | 920 | 10233 |
| Number inspected as a result of :— | | | | | |
| (a) Notification | 3 | 142 | 6 | 58 | 209 |
| (b) Survey | — | 8 | 40 | 65 | 113 |
| (c) Otherwise | — | — | — | 144 | 144 |
| Number found to be in- fested by rats :— | | | | | |
| (a) Major | 1 | 2 | 1 | 28 | 32 |
| (b) Minor | — | 43 | 5 | 66 | 114 |
| Number found to be seri- ously infested by mice | — | 6 | — | 4 | 10 |
| Number of infested pro- perties treated by L.A. | 3 | 95 | 6 | 117 | 221 |
| Number of informal notices served | — | — | — | 11 | 11 |

RIVER TREATMENT.

| | Irwell. | Limy. | Whitewell. | Totals. |
|---|---------|-------|------------|---------|
| No. of baiting points | 1278 | 1840 | 1904 | 5022 |
| No. of prebait 'takes' | 607 | 969 | 1002 | 2578 |
| No. of poison bait 'takes' ... | 349 | 558 | 654 | 1561 |
| Estimated weight of poison bait eaten (ozs.) | 439 | 1061 | 546 | 2046 |

SEWER TREATMENTS.

| | 1st treatment. | 2nd treatment |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Total No. of manholes | 2126 | 2126 |
| No. of manholes test baited | 341 | — |
| No. of manholes pre-baited | 461 | 299 |
| No. of infested manholes | 155 | 77 |

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

The above Act which came into operation on the 1st April, 1952, seeks to control the conditions under which pet animals are kept for sale. All primary inspections were carried out in conjunction with the local inspector of the N.S.P.C.A. and four licences were issued after premises had been rendered satisfactory for their particular purpose.

Factories Act, 1937.

| | No. on Register. | No. of Inspections. | No. of Notices |
|--|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 184 | — | — |
| Factories not included above to which Section 7 applies | 163 | 33 | — |
| Other Premises to which Section 7 applies | 9 | 4 | — |
| Totals | 356 | 37 | — |

| DEFECTS FOUND. | Referred to H.M. by H.M. | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| | Found. | Remedied. | Inspector. | Inspector. |
| Sanitary Conveniences:— | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | 2 | 1 | — | 2 |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 7 | 5 | — | 7 |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| | 10 | 6 | — | 10 |

OUTWORKERS.

In accordance with Section 110 of the Factories Act, 1937, notifications on the August list were received from nine factory occupiers in the Borough that 40 outworkers are employed in classes of work specified by order.* These are entirely connected with the slipper industry. In one case where the outworker carried on work outside the Borough the appropriate Local Authority was informed.

* This shows an increase of 18 outworkers over last year.

Public Cleansing.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The collection of domestic and trade refuse is undertaken by five S.D. freighters. The town is divided into four districts and a weekly system of refuse collection is maintained throughout the year apart from such times as when holidays intervene or when wintry conditions make collection difficult. The fifth vehicle is engaged mainly on trade refuse collection and delivering cover to tip. Apart from a few ashpits at isolated cottages, not situated conveniently for regular collection, dustbins are provided for the reception of house and shop refuse.

Towards the end of the year arrangements were being made to discontinue the collection of raw kitchen waste. The removal of the 220 communal bins from the streets has long been desirable from a public health point of view, although the kitchen waste salvage scheme, by assisting the nation's shortage of feeding stuffs both during and since the war, has played an important part. Re-organisation of work following the cessation of the scheme will result in a considerable saving of expenditure. The

Bedford vehicle which was used to collect kitchen waste and waste paper will no longer be required as the waste paper collection will be undertaken by the trade refuse collecting vehicle.

The mechanical gully emptier is hired from the Highways Department on two days per week for the emptying of 225 pails provided at unsewered property. The large majority of these pails are emptied weekly and on each occasion the emptied pail is charged with approximately a gallon of “strong” disinfectant fluid.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Disposal of refuse is dealt with on controlled tipping lines at Meadow Head, although some difficulty is experienced in obtaining sufficient covering material for satisfactory tip sealing. The number of loads tipped during the year was as follows :

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Refuse | 4583 |
| Sweepings | 174 |
| Gully Material | 220 |
| Various | 1467 |

CLEANSING COSTS.

The cost of refuse collection and disposal (excluding excreta removed) for the financial year ending 31st March, 1953, was as follows :—

| | Collection. | Disposal. | Totals. |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|---------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Total gross expenditure | 12,920 | 2,397 | 15,317 |
| Gross income | 607 | 860 | 1,467 |
| Nett cost | 12,313 | 1,537 | 13,850 |
| Nett cost per 1,000 population ... | 493 | 62 | 555 |
| Nett cost per 1,000 premises | 1,298 | 162 | 1,460 |
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| Nett cost per ton | 1 15 3 | 4 5 | 1 19 8 |

SALVAGE.

The weight and value of salvage collected during the year are as follows :—

| | T. | C. | Q. | £ | s. | d. |
|---------------------------|-----|----|----|------|----|----|
| Waste Paper | 115 | 13 | 0 | 578 | 14 | 11 |
| Kitchen Waste (Raw) | 148 | 19 | 3 | 556 | 5 | 8 |
| Textiles | | 7 | 3 | 2 | 19 | 4 |
| Ferrous Metals | 7 | 15 | 2 | 37 | 12 | 6 |
| Non-Ferrous Metals | 2 | 0 | 2 | 149 | 3 | 4 |
| Totals | 274 | 16 | 2 | 1324 | 15 | 9 |

| | | | | | | |
|--|-------|---|---|-------|----|---|
| Concentrated Kitchen Waste (Gross Profit) | 37 | 9 | 0 | 89 | 9 | 9 |
| | <hr/> | | | <hr/> | | |
| Total Income | | | | 1414 | 5 | 6 |
| Less Salvage 'Bonus' | | | | 113 | 15 | 4 |
| | | | | <hr/> | | |
| Nett Income | | | | 1300 | 10 | 2 |
| | | | | <hr/> | | |

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Three hundred and fifteen visits by members of the staff were paid to the public conveniences in the area. Such frequent visiting is necessitated by the regular wilful damage caused by destructive persons.

The erection of two new conveniences in different parts of the town is authorised. The provision of more suitable conveniences in the centre of the town is very much to be desired.

SECTION E.

Housing

Housing.

(a) STATISTICS.

NEW HOUSES.

No. of new houses erected during the year :—

| | Houses. | Flats. |
|--|---------|--------|
| (i) By the local authority | 154 | 10 |
| (ii) By other local authorities | — | — |
| (iii) By other bodies or persons | 5 | — |

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 386 |
| Number of inspections made for the above purpose ... | 971 |
| Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 | 11 |
| No. of inspections made for the above purpose | 50 |
| No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 11 |
| No. of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 375 |

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority and its officers | 348 |
|--|-----|

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

1. Housing Act, 1936 (Sections 9, 10 & 16) :

| | |
|--|-----|
| (a) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | nil |
| (b) No. of dwelling-houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit :— | |
| (i) by owners | nil |
| (ii) by the local authority in default | nil |

2. Public Health Acts :

| | |
|---|-----|
| (a) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | nil |
|---|-----|

| | |
|--|-----|
| (b) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:— | |
| (i) by owners | nil |
| (ii) by the local authority in default | nil |
| 3. Housing Act, 1936 (Sections 11 & 13): | |
| (a) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 3 |
| (b) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 10 |
| 4. Housing Act, 1936 (Section 12): | |
| (a) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 17 |
| (b) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | nil |

HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

| | |
|---|----|
| No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during 1953 | 8 |
| No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during 1953 | 6 |
| No. of persons concerned in such cases | 39 |

HOUSING ACT, 1949.

| | |
|---|-----|
| 1. (a) No. of schemes submitted: | |
| (i) By private individuals | nil |
| (ii) By local authority | nil |
| (b) No. of dwelling-houses affected | nil |
| 2. (a) No. of schemes approved: | |
| (i) of private individuals | nil |
| (ii) of local authority | 1 |
| (b) No. of dwelling-houses affected | 10 |
| 3. (a) No. of additional separate dwellings provided | nil |

(b) GENERAL CONDITIONS.

The general standard of housing accommodation in the Borough is far from satisfactory. The main problem is one of unsatisfactory type, the extent of which can be gauged by consider-

ation of the facts emerging from the housing survey which has been carried out in the Borough. Extracts from these figures are given below. The survey was carried out on the principle of external block examination together with a degree of internal inspection. The 20 year plan mentioned in the introductory letter to this report attempts to set out some order of priority in dealing with the problem over four five year periods. It is not visualised that all houses will be demolished, broadly the first ten years will be devoted to clearance schemes and the second ten years to reconditioning and conversion of back-to-back properties together with some degree of demolition. In all, close on 3,000 houses are involved, in addition to these there will be the "repairable" houses to be dealt with under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936. A survey to determine the number of this type of house was proceeding at the end of the year.

The survey revealed the existence of the following types of houses in the Borough.

| | |
|--|-------|
| (1) Back-to-back types | 1,980 |
| (2) Non-typical "through" (no rear access, etc.).. | 560 |
| (3) Through houses in bad condition or involved with substandard types in clearance areas, etc. | 534 |

The above types include 103 houses back to earth to a degree of 6 feet or more, whilst there are 1,423 over 100 years old.

Three Demolition Orders and 17 Closing Orders were made during the year on certain priority unfit houses.

At the end of the year the number and type of houses required to deal with the first priority list of applicants for Corporation houses was as follows:— (a) 4 bedroomed parlour type—8; (b) 3 bedroomed parlour type—2, (c) 3 bedroomed non-parlour type—82; (d) 2 bedroomed non-parlour type—168, (e) bungalows and flats—20. It is estimated that a further 2,000 houses are required to re-house families from unfit dwellings.

At the end of the year 194 houses were under construction or let on contract. Schemes contemplated in the near future are for 400 houses, 20 flats and 20 bungalows. The majority of the building sites are hilly but as there is no alternative the best use has to be made of those available.

Eight new cases of overcrowding were reported during the year and six cases were relieved. The number of persons concerned in the six cases was 39. The number of dwellings known to be overcrowded at the end of the year was five. The adoption of a bedroom standard of overcrowding for the review of applic-

ants for Corporation houses is undoubtedly keeping serious overcrowding down to a minimum. There does appear, however, to be a shortage of 4 bedroomed type houses to deal with the very large families.

The economic factors of low rentals and high repair costs influences action under Public Health or Housing Acts. Systematic reconditioning of property under the Housing Acts is virtually at a standstill and recourse is usually had to requiring the carrying out of essential repairs only.

SECTION F.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY

The supervision of milk production on farms is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Local Authorities are still responsible for many important duties connected with milk distribution, including the sampling of milk after it leaves the farm. They also possess the powers for prevention of infection of milk, and duties in connection with water supply, sewage disposal and housing at farm and dairy premises.

The reports of all adverse samples are notified to the Ministry's officers controlling milk production, and they in turn visit the farms to give advice. Last year's sampling results did not maintain the high standard of former years and special representations were made by the Council to the Ministry on this matter.

Two samples of milk were found to be tuberculous and Orders were made requiring the milk from the two sources to be heat treated until it was found free from infection. Compensation was paid by the Council to the farmers for the additional cost involved.

At least one sample of milk was taken for biological examination from each retailer of raw milk and it is considered that this phase of the Department's work is very important when the potential danger from consuming infected milk is considered.

The complete figures are as follows :—

| | No. of samples. | No. satis- factory. | No. unsatis- factory. |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Raw Milk—Designated. | | | |
| (i) Tuberculosis biological test | 28 | 28 | — |
| (ii) Methylene blue reduction test | 44 | 31 | 13 |
| Raw Milk—Undesignated. | | | |
| (i) Tuberculosis biological test | 45 | 43 | 2 |
| (ii) Methylene blue reduction test | 57 | 44 | 13 |
| Pasteurised Milk. | | | |
| (i) Phosphatase Test | 8 | 8 | — |
| (ii) Methylene blue reduction | 7 | 7 | — |
| Sterilised Milk. | | | |
| (i) Turbidity test | 6 | 6 | — |

The following registrations and licences are in operation in the district :—

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

No. of registered distributors operating from:—

| | |
|---|----|
| (a) Shops in the district | 69 |
| (b) Premises outside the district | 3 |

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences for distribution of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk | 8 |
|---|---|

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

| No. of licences issued in respect of "heat" treated milk | Retail Distributions | |
|---|----------------------|------------|
| | Pasteurised | Sterilised |
| | 13 | 73 |

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Meat supplied for retail sale in the Borough is inspected at the Colne Public Abattoir and distributed from there. Five cottagers' pigs were inspected at the request of the owners but no disease conditions were found. One hundred inspections were made of food at retailers' premises and the following articles of food were condemned.

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Bacon | 6 lbs. | Fowl | 54 lbs. |
| Butter | 48 lbs. | Fruit, dried | 45 lbs. |
| Cereals | 15 lbs. | Fruit, tinned | 243 lbs. |
| Cheese | 16 lbs. | Meat, tinned | 454 lbs. |
| Conserves | 25 lbs. | Milk, powdered | 36 lbs. |
| Egg, Frozen | 44 lbs. | Milk, tinned | 129 pints |
| Fish, smoked | 14 lbs. | Sweets | 96 lbs. |
| Fish, tinned | 116 lbs. | Vegetables, tinned .. | 57 lbs. |
| Fish, wet | 21 lbs. | | |

In addition to the above, 325 visits were also made to food premises and the following work was accomplished during the year.

| | Found. | Abated. |
|--|--------|---------|
| Soap and Towel Supply | 7 | 4 |
| First Aid arrangements | 1 | 1 |
| Protective Clothing | 2 | 2 |
| Food Room used for Domestic Purposes | 2 | 1 |

| | | |
|--|------------|------------|
| Storage of Food | 13 | 5 |
| Display of Food | 4 | 4 |
| Handling of Food | 3 | 2 |
| Tables, Benches, Counters | 19 | 11 |
| Shelves | 2 | — |
| Machinery and Equipment | 19 | 10 |
| Crockery and Glassware | 2 | — |
| Miscellaneous Utensils | 2 | 2 |
| Washing Up fittings | 3 | 2 |
| Hot Water Provision | 1 | 4 |
| Natural Ventilation | 3 | 3 |
| Artificial Lighting | 2 | — |
| W.C's. defective or insufficient | 2 | 3 |
| W.C's. Notices not displayed re hand-washing | 7 | 3 |
| Walls | 22 | 12 |
| Floors | 14 | 7 |
| Ceilings | 17 | 9 |
| Woodwork | 12 | 5 |
| Vermin infestation | — | 1 |
| Refuse Storage | 6 | 2 |
| Delivery Vehicles | 1 | 1 |
| External structural defects | 5 | — |
| Failure to take all reasonable steps to prevent risk of contamination of food | 12 | 6 |
| Storage of crockery, cutlery, etc. | 8 | 2 |
| TOTALS | 191 | 102 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| No. of Informal Notices | 15 |
| No. of Food Premises concerned | 15 |

CATERING. DEPARTMENTAL ENQUIRIES.

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of notifications of intention to open food premises | 2 |
| No. of premises found to be completely unsuitable | 1 |
| No. of premises made satisfactory after service of notices | 1 |

The closest co-operation exists with the Ministry of Food in the issue of catering licences and the following table illustrates the benefits derived from this system during the past year.

| | Type of Licence applied for : | |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------|
| | Snack. | Catering. |
| No. of applications received | 3 | 4 |
| No. of applications granted | 1 | 3 |
| No. of premises found satisfactory | — | — |
| No. of premises found unsatisfactory but made satisfactory after service of notice | 1 | 3 |
| No. of premises found completely unsatisfac- tory and licence refused | 2 | 1 |

ICE CREAM.

There are 7 manufacturers of ice cream in the Borough, 3 of whom use the hot-mix method and 4 the cold-mix method. In only one instance is the production carried out on a large scale, the others are small traders and shopkeepers manufacturing for their own requirements. In all cases special rooms are used for ice cream manufacture, and none is made in association with domestic arrangements. The sale of ice cream continues to increase and seven new registrations were approved during the year, six of which were for the sale of wrapped ice cream, and one for the sale of loose ice cream.

The details of registrations at the end of the year were as follows :—

| | Hot Mix. | Cold Mix. |
|------------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Wholesale manufacturers | 1 | — |
| 2. Manufacturing retailers | 2 | 4 |
| 3. Retail vendors—pre-packed | 74 | — |
| Loose | 14 | — |
| Totals | 91 | 4 |

Generally speaking, inspection of the above premises revealed that the relevant Acts and Regulations, together with the adopted Lancashire County Council's Codes of Practice, were being satisfactorily observed. Sixty-two visits were made.

Twenty-nine samples of ice cream were collected for bacteriological examination and were reported on as follows :—

| Provisional Grade. | No. of Samples. |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 22 |
| 2 | 5 |
| 3 | — |
| 4 | 2 |

FOOD POISONING.

Six cases of food poisoning were notified during the year, all were single cases and despite exhaustive enquiries the specific causes of the illnesses were not located. In only one case was the causal organism identified and this was found to be the salmonella bovis morbificans.

FOOD HYGIENE EDUCATION.

The Department continued its policy of dealing with this matter along two channels, namely (1) the educative approach during inspections of food premises, when every effort is made to explain why the various requirements are necessary, (2) the theoretical training of all food handlers who desire to acquire a basic knowledge of the subject which can only be given in a course of lectures. Each method is complementary to the other. The lecture course was again run in conjunction with the St. John Ambulance Association and despite the fact that by enrolling 118 members of the food trade during 1952 it was believed that the number of interested persons may have been exhausted, a further 40 traders enrolled for classes held during 1953. As in the former year elderly traders showed reluctance to take the examination at the end of the courses but in the two years 105 persons sat for the examination and 85 of them proved they had a sound basic knowledge of food hygiene. The interest shown by traders has been very gratifying, although it is unlikely that there will be much more demand for this form of food hygiene training and education at the "work bench" will probably be the main approach in the future. There is now a hard core of food handlers in the town who can, and are, showing by their example, how important food hygiene really is.

FOOD AND DRUGS ADULTERATION.

The Lancashire County Council undertake the sampling of food for quality, assistance being rendered by this Department as required. Dr. S. C. Gawne, County Medical Officer of Health, has kindly furnished the following information :—

A total of 101 samples was obtained; of these, 68 were of milk and the 33 others comprised :—

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 3 Malt extract with cod liver oil | 3 Self raising flour |
| 2 Saccharin tablets | 2 Flavouring essence |
| 2 Sweets | 2 Vegetables, canned |
| 2 Cheese | 1 Olive oil |
| 1 Honey | 1 Christmas pudding |
| | 1 Cheese spread |

| | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 1 Spread | 1 Cut peel |
| 3 Ice Cream | 2 Table jelly |
| 1 Salad Cream | 2 Blanc mange powder |
| 3 Pickles | |

All the samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following :—

| Sample. | Result of Analysis. | Action Taken. |
|---------------|---|---|
| 1 Formal Milk | Deficient 25.1 per cent. solids-not-fat, freezing point indicated the presence of 25.3 per cent extraneous water. | Prosecution. Vendors fined a total of £10 and £1/1/0 costs. |
| 1 Formal Milk | Deficient 6.3 per cent. solids-not-fat, freezing point indicated the presence of 8 per cent. extraneous water. | Prosecution. Vendor fined £2 and £2/2/0 costs. |

In addition to the above, one “appeal-to-cow” sample was taken from the area which was reported by the County Analyst to be a sample of genuine milk.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT.

Functions with regard to above Acts which are administered by the Health Committee are carried out by the Police. I am indebted to Supt. G. Smith for details of the work carried out by his officers during 1953.

| | |
|--|-----|
| No. of cases of Foot and Mouth Disease | nil |
| No. of cases of Anthrax | 2 |
| No. of cases of Fowl Pest | 5 |
| No. of cases of Swine Fever | nil |
| No. of cases of Sheep Scab | nil |
| No. of cases of Tuberculosis | 3 |
| No. of notices of intention to Sheep Dip | 27 |

Movement Licences Issued:—

| | |
|---|-----|
| Animals Landing from Ireland Order | nil |
| Foot and Mouth Disease—Controlled Areas | 59 |
| Swine Fever | nil |
| Sheep Scab | nil |
| Tuberculosis | nil |
| Anthrax | nil |

